

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 239 without my signature.

It is unacceptable to create a two-tier classification for drug and alcohol counselors in this state. Individuals seeking treatment for an addiction problem should not be subject to different standards based on their ability to pay.

I am directing my Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and Department of Consumer Affairs to work with stakeholders to craft a uniform standard for all alcohol and drug counselors so individuals seeking treatment are offered the same quality care across all sectors, whether in a public or private facility.

I look forward to supporting a bill that provides consistent, high quality standards for all alcohol and drug counselors.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger